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BEAUTY IN STAINED GLASS

IT is sometimes helpful in a crisis to turn to subjects as remote as possible from those that are troubling us. So we turn the minds of our readers in this issue to the making of stained glass windows in Canada. Though the population of Canada is 111/2 millions, and the number of people at work on stained glass windows is "hardly more than one hundred," it is a relief to find a hundred people anywhere this week who are not worrying about dollars and whose enthusiasm will not be damped whether the world remains one exchange area or breaks into two. For the photographs accompanying the notes we are indebted to the office of the High Commissioner for Canada

ABRICATION of stained glass windows had been practised in Europe for almost five centuries when Samuel de Champlain brought the first European settlers to Canada in 1603. In suc-

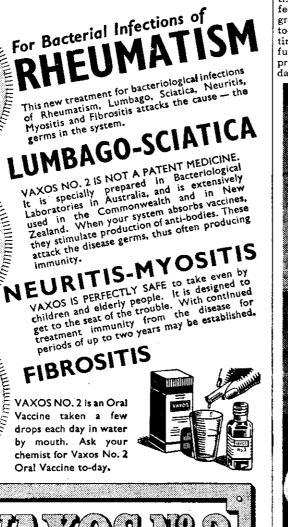
ceeding centuries this craft was among the many Old-World skills transferred to North America, and in Canada it continues to-day as a small but important profession.

Used almost exclusively in churches, stained glass windows are defined as translucent mosaics held together by strips of lead. The technique as practised when the art first came to its per-fection in the 12th Century is not greatly different from that employed to-day by Canadian artisans. In olden times, of course, procedures were casefully guarded and there were secret processes which no craftsman would dare reveal. Now the supplies of col-

oured glass are obtained from com-mercial manufacturers, and everything

involved is readily manifest except the inherent talent required by the craftsmen in transforming fragments of glass and soft lead into exquisite adornments. Scarcely more than 100 people in

Canada now work at this ancient trade, (continued on page 20)



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TWO STEPS in the making of stained glass windows. First a water-colour sketch (top of page) is prepared, then (above) a full-size "cartoon" is made in the exact pattern of the finished window. Craftsmen use this as a working plan and normally it lies flat on the work-table



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